

2. COMPUTER PROCESSING

The preceding pages have been devoted to the presentation of our sources of basic information: the data sent in by the authors themselves and the systematic analysis of different blocks of bibliographic information proper.

Clearly, however, neither the data in the curricula we received, nor those we ourselves extracted from already published sources, had the slightest uniformity. To overcome this problem, we built up our own hand-made card index and, with a level of efficiency that left much to be desired, spent two years slowly and laboriously filling in hundreds of cards which, as they multiplied, became more and more difficult to manipulate and process in any coherent way.

The time had come for us to consider a new computerized method of data processing, which would enable us to work more efficiently. We accordingly designed a bibliographical card which would meet the essential requirements of permitting correlations of the basic reference data at any time and the constitution of complementary indexes; author index, chronological index, geographical index by autonomous communities, index of collective publications, index of historical, theoretical and methodological works, etc.³⁹.

Josep M. Pagès, a computer technician with the Catalan government's Centre de Divulgació de la Informàtica, was entrusted with the task of designing a standardized computerized index card since none of the team

members possessed sufficient knowledge of programming. The resulting model was as follows:

« _____ »	»
« AUTHOR	»
« YEAR	»
« TITLE	»
« SOURCE	»
« CITY (OF PUBLICATION)	»
« REGION	»
« SUBJECT	»
« _____ »	»

The computerization of the data was done using two systems: dBase 2 and dBase 3, which provide almost limitless scope for accumulating and correlating the data. A storage problem arose however since, having no computer of our own, we fed the information into the already overburdened IBM-XT 370 at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters at Tarragona.

We decided in the end not to include the subject index, fundamental to the compilation of any bibliography, which was provided for in the initial standard design of the card. This decision was taken in the light of certain trial runs which revealed that the risks involved in including a subject index were greater than the guarantees of reliability we could offer ⁴⁰.

It is our hope that the publication of *Thirty Years of Anthropological Literature about Spain* will constitute a useful step in the task of compiling, sorting, cataloguing and indexing recent anthropological output. We believe also that this work will be of assistance to specialists in establishing some of the major profiles of cultural and social anthropology in Spain, both at the present time and in the years since the Civil War.

For our part, we intend to follow up the present publication by undertaking a periodical updating of the bibliography ⁴¹. We will be grateful, therefore, for any new references sent in by authors (such references are the only ones that can be assured of publication) and also to any reader who calls our attention to the shortcomings he or she may have discovered in the bibliographic materials presented herein.